

STATE OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA

AREA UNDER CROP, 1949/50

When the annual farm statistics were being collected last autumn, farmers were asked to indicate the areas that they intended to sow with wheat, barley and oats for all purposes (for grain, hay or feeding off) for this coming season.

During the last few weeks, particulars of their actual sowings have been obtained from a number of farmers in all districts of the State and whose areas under crop represent over 40% of the total area under crop. These actual sowings were compared with the areas intended for sowing by the same farmers and the comparative figures obtained were as follows:- Wheat - Intended 850,841, Actually sown 850,012. Barley - Intended 253,605, Actually Sown 251,755, and Oats - Intended 273,359, Actually Sown 268,342 acres.

This sample collection indicates that the areas actually sown varied only slightly from that which had been intended and the estimated totals given below are based on this experience. Compared with the previous season, wheat shows a decrease in every Division of the State, while Barley and Oats acreages are practically the same throughout.

The following statement gives the comparison of the total areas for certain specified seasons.

Seasons	Wheat Acres	Barley Acres	Oats Acres	Total Acres
1930-31	4,507,213 a	267,369	519,300	5,293,882 a
1939-40	2,948,110	558,559	834,793 b	4,341,462
1943-44	1,675,778 c	304,382 c	558,065	2,538,225 c
1944-45	1,850,682	402,700	664,436	2,917,818
1945-46	2,407,253	479,384	686,128	3,572,765
1946-47	2,662,150	520,027	485,736 d	3,667,913
1947-48	2,480,840	579,795	560,294	3,620,923
1948-49	2,159,218	728,398 e	622,588	3,510,204
1949/50 Intended	1,975,000	725,000	650,000	3,350,000
Estimated Sown	1,975,000	725,000	635,000	3,335,000

The areas sown in 1948-49 were harvested as follows:-

Grain	2,063,034	697,751	286,540	3,047,325
Hay	80,490	2,067	112,400	194,957
Fed Off	15,694	28,580	223,648	267,922

- Notes
- Maximum area for wheat and for the total.
 - Maximum area for oats.
 - Lowest areas for wheat and barley in recent years and for the total
 - Lowest area for oats in recent years.
 - Maximum area for barley.